form or as cargo. However, hazardous materials like asbestos, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and radio-active materials are present in the ship as part of its structure. There are 653 smoke detectors and exit points in the ship containing radio active materials as in-built structure of the ship. The team also estimated that approx. 238 MT of Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) is present in the structure of the ship. A team of officers of Gujarat State Pollution Control Board inspected the ship on 10.10.2009 and estimated that about 20 MT of PCBs are present as in-built structure of the ship.

In exercising the 'Precautionary Principle', this Ministry has communicated to GMB that granting permission for beaching and breaking purposes of the ship will not be advisable.

Quantity of ozone gas

†3435. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the Central Pollution Control Board, the quantity of ozone gas is increasing due to CNG operated vehicles;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the possibility of being affected with various diseases like skin cancer, asthma, heart disease, etc. increases due to increase in the quantity of ozone in the atmosphere;

(c) whether we may get rid of this problem by making some scientific changes in engine technique in CNG operated vehicles; and

(d) if so, whether Government would encourage scientists in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is monitoring the ambient Ozone levels on continuous basis at three locations in Delhi namely Bahadurshah Zafar Marg (ITO intersection), Delhi College of Engineering (DCE) and Sirifort. The monitoring of ozone in other cities is yet to be started.

The levels of Ozone observed in Delhi during 2007, 2008 and 2009 are as under:

Year	DCE	B.S.Z. Marg, ITO	Sirifort
2007	71	31	46
2008	45	40	31
2009*	50	44	36

*Upto October, 2009 All values are in $\mu g/m^3$

As evident from the above data, there is no definite trend in Ozone levels. The co-relation of the observed concentration/ levels of Ozone with the emissions arising out of CNG operated vehicles has not been established.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) As per the World Health Organization Guidelines on Air Quality (2005), Ozone levels below 100 $\mu g/m^3$ have very limited health impact. However, Ozone levels beyond 160 $\mu g/m^3$ have potential to cause respiratory diseases like asthma, airway inflammation, etc.

(c) and (d) The CNG vehicles manufactured by Original Equipment Manufacture (OEMs) are equipped with catalytic converters and meet the current emission regulations. Further, there is no established linkage of Ozone levels with emissions of CNG vehicles. Therefore, the need for change in engine technology in CNG vehicles is not felt at this stage.

Extinction of tigers from Panna Tiger Reserve

3436. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a recent census of tiger population, the tigers in Panna Tiger Reserve has gone extinct;

(b) when the last census was undertaken in the Reserve and what was the tiger population as per the census; and

(c) whether Government has probed the reasons for extinction of tigers there and if so, the results of that probe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) As per the assessment of tiger status done by the Wildlife Institute of India, the tiger population in the Panna Tiger Reserve of Madhya Pradesh had gone locally extinct.

(b) As per findings of the last All India estimation of tiger population, using the refined methodology in 2008, the Panna landscape, *inter-alia* encompassing the Panna Tiger Reserve and its surrounds, sustained 24 (±1 Standard Error, range 15-32) tigers.

(c) The Government of India had constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to look into the causative factors for disappearance of tigers from the Panna Tiger Reserve. The SIT has submitted its report and attributed the main cause of tiger disappearance to poaching. The report has been forwarded to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for taking appropriate administrative and ecological measures.

Genetically modified agriculture produce

3437. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the different eatable agriculture produce which are genetically modified and approved by the Government to be produced in the country;

(b) whether Government has conducted enough tests to ensure that they are not affecting the health of the innocent public; and